

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A method of improving the properties of urea granulates, more especially the caking tendency, the dust formation and the foaming tendency in aqueous media, by the addition of an additive to the urea, characterized in that~~A method for reducing caking tendency, dust formation and, foaming tendencies when in aqueous media, of urea granules, where the method comprises adding a compound to the surface of the urea granules,  
wherein the additive comprises a carboxylic acid compound with the general formula  $XY-(Z)-COOH$ , in which Z is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon with 1-25 carbon ~~atoms~~atoms, and X and Y are selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom or a polar organic functional group, and ~~in that~~wherein the additive is added as a solution in a polar solvent to the urea granulates, which are subsequently dried.
2. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A method~~The method according to ~~claim 1~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the polar solvent is water.
3. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A method~~The method according to ~~claim 1~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein Z has 2-5 carbon atoms.
4. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A method~~The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the polar organic functional group is selected from ~~a group~~the group consisting of a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amine group ~~or an~~and an acetal group.
5. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A method~~The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein X is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group and Y is a carboxylic acid group.
6. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A method~~The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the ~~aqueous~~ solution has a concentration of 0.5-60 wt % of the carboxylic acid compound.

7. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A method~~The method according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the concentration is 5-30 wt %.
8. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A method~~The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein based upon the weight of urea, the concentration of the carboxylic acid compound is ~~100-10,000 ppm, preferably 500-3000 ppm~~100-10,000 ppm.
9. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A method~~The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein during the addition of the ~~aqueous~~-solution the temperature of the urea is 30-90°C, preferably 40-70°C.
10. **(Currently Amended)** A urea granule having a compound of the general formula ~~XY-Z-COOH, XY-Z-COOH~~ in which Z is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon with 1-25 carbon atoms, and X and Y are selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a polar organic functional group, on the surface of the granule.
11. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A urea~~The urea granule according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~wherein Z has 2-5 carbon atoms.
12. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A urea~~The urea granule according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the polar organic functional group is selected from ~~a group~~the group consisting of a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amine group ~~or an~~and an acetal group.
13. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A urea~~The urea granule according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~wherein X is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group and Y is a carboxylic acid group.
14. **(Previously Presented)** A urea granule produced by the method according to claim 1.

**15. (New)** The method according to claim 1, wherein based upon the weight of urea, the concentration of the carboxylic acid compound is 500-3,000 ppm.

**16. (New)** The method according to claim 1, wherein during the addition of the solution the temperature of the urea is 40-70°C.